

# FREE Orange County

Newsletter of the  
Orange County  
Libertarian Party  
Central  
Committee

March 1992

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## Libertarians ask the \$500 question

### Activists support tax rebate for Mission Viejo

Libertarian activists have entered a storm of controversy over what to do with the city of Mission Viejo's estimated \$30 million revenue surplus. A citizen initiative to require a \$500 rebate to Mission Viejo taxpayers is in the works, and one LP activist said she was personally threatened by a city councilmember.

Bert Golding, a Libertarian and Mission Viejo resident, is organizing the rebate initiative with the help of Linda Grau, an LP activist from Irvine. David Nolan, LP founder and a new resident of Mission Viejo, has spoken in favor of a rebate but is not directly involved in the initiative.

Residents are divided over whether to rebate the surplus, spend it on new city projects, or save it against future needs, according to Nolan. City Councilmembers William Craycraft and Bob Curtis have called for a rebate, while Bob Breton, Susan Withrow and Mayor Sharon Cody favor spending the funds on various new projects, including a new library and animal shelter.

Originally, the spenders on the council wanted to build a new City Hall complex estimated to cost \$18 million, but citizen opposition to that has been so strong that this project will not likely happen, Nolan said.

And even if the council continued to plan for the new city hall, a citizen's initiative blocking it, organized by Gary Manley, has already qualified for the next general election ballot, Grau said.

The debate over the rebate began in January when Craycraft held a press conference along with state Assemblyman Mickey Conroy and said he

would like to see Mission Viejo's surplus go to a \$500 rebate to each household and business in the city, for a total of \$11.5 million dollars. This would still leave a reserve and money for smaller projects.

Bob Curtis, acting independently, also called for a rebate of an unspecified amount, to be dispersed in an unspecified manner.

The source of the surplus is the way the state allocates property taxes collected to the cities and

***"The citizens of Mission Viejo ... do not want a city hall complex, do not want expensive projects, and want a \$500 rebate which people can send back earmarked for a special project or keep and spend where it'll do the most good."***

— Linda Grau

counties. New cities are allocated money based on a population estimate pegged at three times the number of registered voters. That factor decreases over six years until the estimate more closely matches the city's actual population. By comparison, Orange County's population counted in the 1990 census was roughly 2.4 times its number of registered voters.

A public hearing held in January on the matter drew a crowd of more than 100 people "despite the rainstorms we had that week," Nolan recalled. He said he suspected that both the council majority and Gary Manley's anti-city hall complex group attempted to pack the meeting.

"The whole tenor of the debate was what 'the city' should do with 'its money,'" he said. Nolan went to the podium then and reminded everyone that the money rightfully belonged to the people it was taken from.

Grau earned the enmity of the council majority at that meeting when she continually held up a newspaper headlining a similar tax rebate proposal

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Notes from the Chair

# Campaign '92 is building up steam

We won! **Andre Marrou** beat all other contenders, including George Bush, in the first New Hampshire primary vote. In the town of Dixville Notch, where polls open at midnight on primary morning, Marrou pulled in 11 out of 31 votes. Bush got only nine. Every major network on broadcast and cable television picked up the story, garnering the Libertarian Party the best publicity we've seen in years!

Locally, a slate of candidates featuring **Scott Bieser, Gary Copeland, Jack Dean, Doyle Guhy, David Keller, Rick Newhouse, Brian Schar, and Eric Sprik** successfully completed their signature drive to get on the ballot in Orange County. The Libertarian Party of California is fielding a record number of candidates this year, even more than in 1980, and we're a part of that. Best of luck to all of us!

Our own **Richard Boddie** made a swing up the coast promoting his campaign for U.S. Senate,

stopping in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and points north. His campaign organization has already produced a TV commercial, set up an 800 number (800-6-BODDIE) and assembled the Boddie Action Networking Group (BANG) for grassroots action.

The OCLP plans to continue its local growth through that same kind of grassroots action. In the next several months we will organize precincts and take volunteers for precinct captains. We're building an organization that will last beyond Election Day and serve as a nucleus for growth.

Good local news—we reached 300 paid members at the end of January! We're still expecting to break 1,000 members by Election Day. With a little hard work, we can make it!

As an ongoing activity, if you notice media features that should have included the Libertarian Party, but didn't write a letter or make a phone call. Let the media know, calmly and politely, that we exist, and you would have liked to have seen us or read about us. They'll keep on slighting us only as long as we let them get away with it. You can make a difference!

## Libertarians party

**Richard Boddie**, LP candidate for U.S. Senate, will be the guest of honor at a "South Orange County Libertarian Party Party" set to celebrate the 1992 slate of candidates on Saturday, March 14.

The party will be held in Dana Point at the home of **Jeff Winters**. For location details please R.S.V.P. by calling (714) 489-0832.

## Convention post mortem

**Lynne Atherton-Bloxham**, volunteer coordinator, wishes to extend her heartfelt thanks to all the party activists who helped with registration and events at the recent California LP State Convention.

At the convention, **Pat Wright** retained his position as State Chair, and **Bob Weber** was elected Southern Regional Vice Chair. **Kim Goldsworthy**, the former Southern Vice Chair who unsuccessfully challenged Wright, will remain active as chair of his local Region 63 in northern Los Angeles County.

*FREE Orange County* will present a detailed report on the convention in next month's issue. Those wishing to learn about it sooner are encouraged to attend this month's meeting, when convention organizer **Roger Bloxham** will give a presentation covering the highlights and lowlights.



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# Mission Viejo rebate — from page 1

offered for Laguna Hills a while back, Nolan said. Mayor Cody told Grau to stop holding up "that inflammatory material" which Grau was displaying for the benefit of both the council and the television cameras present. When Grau refused to stop holding up the newspaper, Cody ordered a recess. Another official told Grau the meeting would not reconvene until Grau agreed to cooperate, and at that point Grau relented.

Mayor Cody used the recess weapon against Grau again at a Feb. 24 council meeting where the rebate issue was discussed again. Grau said Cody called a recess in the middle of Grau's time at the podium, and also interrupted rebate proponent Craycraft, eliminated TV access to the proceedings and told other speakers not to repeat what previous speakers said.

One speaker, Ted Olsen, told Cody that "I want to emphasize (what was said), because you haven't got it and I want you to get it."

During another recess, a confrontation took place between Grau and Councilmember Breton, who is also a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California.

According to Grau, Breton told her, "If a policeman hurts you, I wouldn't want to be the prosecutor. If a policeman hurts you, I *refuse* to be the prosecutor!" Grau said there were witnesses to those remarks and she has sent a letter to State Attorney General Dan Lundgren on the matter.

The gravity of that threat was made clear to

Grau after she said she was "buzzed" three times by police officers as she was driving in the county. She added that the printer who provided the first batch of flyers for the pro-rebate drive received a \$300 speeding ticket shortly after the flyers were printed.

"This potential rebate is of national importance," Grau said, indicating it could inspire similar movements in cities around the country. The Mission Viejo situation has been reported on three times in the Orange County *Register*, twice in *The Wall Street Journal* and once in the Los Angeles *Times*. It has also been covered on KABC-TV in Los Angeles and some Cable TV outlets.

"The citizens of Mission Viejo are aroused," Grau said. "The majority do not want a city hall complex, do not want expensive projects, and want a \$500 rebate which people can send back earmarked for a special project or keep and spend where it'll do the most good."

Nolan, noting the potential difficulties in giving the money back fairly, was less optimistic about a rebate actually happening. He said it was more likely that property tax payers would get a credit against future tax bills.

"I think it's great as far as rousing people up," he said. "Maybe it will get one or two of the bad people bounced off the city council."

At the February meeting the Council voted down giving a rebate. Grau said another citizen is organizing a recall campaign against all the councilmembers except Craycraft.

## Membership Application

Libertarian Party of California • 655 Lewelling Blvd. #362  
San Leandro, CA 94579

I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

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  - \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  Other \_\_\_\_\_
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- Life Membership (\$500 or more)
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- First Class Mail option for *CLNews* (\$5)

I would like to help by providing (time, skills, anything else) \_\_\_\_\_

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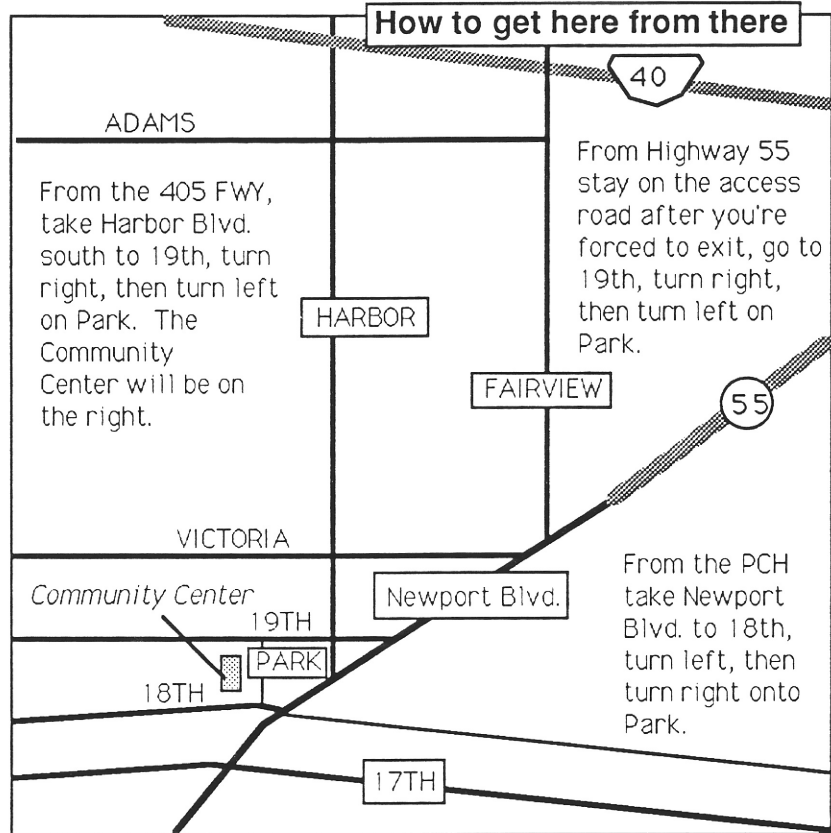
# Meeting Time & Place

The Orange County Libertarian Party in the third Tuesday of each month at The Neighborhood Community Center in Costa Mesa, located at 1875 Park. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

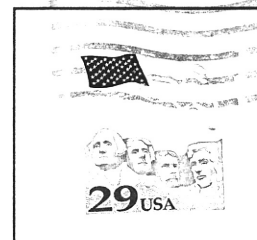
For up-to-the-minute details concerning the next meeting please call party Chair Brian Schar at 840-6833.

## Important phone numbers

- Orange County LP .....(714) 540-5053
- California LP .....(800) 637-1776
- National LP .....(202) 543-1988
- Boddie for Senate .....(800) 6-BODDIE
- Marrou for President ..(702) 434-6362
- Liberty Bell BBS.....(408) 243-1933
- FIDO-Net: 143/6
- 8,N,1, 300/1200/2400 baud
- FREE Orange County .(714) 642-4745
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